

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 PM-07 /190 W

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R 301022Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8645

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, AORG, ECAFE

SUBJ: RED: ECAFE: RATIONALIZATION PROJECT: STATUS REPORT AND
FORECAST

REF: A. ECAFE DOCS OES/PR(2)/1-4 TRANSMITTED NOV 5 AND 8
B. BANGKOK 16603

1. SUMMARY: INFORMAL GROUP STILL HOPEFULL SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE ON RATIONALIZATION PROJECT DURING SECOND FORMAL MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES DEC. 3, 4 AND 6. THREE MEETINGS DURING PAST MONTH HAVE BROUGHT GROUP'S VIEWS CLOSER TOGETHER ON MOST AGENDA ITEMS BUT EXTENT TO WHICH THESE VIEWS CAN BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO PRINCIPAL RECALCITRANT PERM REPS (USSR, SRI LANKA, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN AND INDIA) IS UNKNOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. INFORMAL GROUP (INDONESIA, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND AND U.S.) MET NOV 12, 21 AND 28 TO DISCUSS AGENDA OF UPCOMING SECOND ECAFE PERM REPS MEETING AND TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED. FOR OFFICE-BEARERS, GROUP AGREED TO SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF PREVIOUS MALAYSIAN CHAIRMAN AND SRI LANKAN VICE CHARIMAN WHO, WE UNDERSTNAD, HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO REACCEPT THESE ROLES.

3. CONFERENCE STRUCTURE - GROUP AGREED ELIMINATE BOX ENTITLED "EXECUTIVE SECRETARY" FROM T.O. CHART SUBMITTED IN OES/PR(2)/2
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AND ALSO ELIMINATE SPECIFIC LISTING OF AD HOC CONFERENCES. ALL

WANTED CHART TO SHOW MAXIMUM FREQUENCY AS WELL AS DURATION OF MEETINGS
ESPECIALLY FOR LEGISLATIVE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SECTORAL REVIEW AND PROGRAMMING.

4. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS - OUR SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF STATISTICAL
AND ECONOMIC PLANNERS' CONFERENCES MET WITH JAPANESE AND DUTCH RESISTANCE. INFORMAL GROUP WILL CONTINUE PRESS FOR MERGER OF COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ASIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND ASIAN CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIALIZATION IN SPITE
OF SECRETARIAT'S RESISTANCE TO IDEA. WE WILL CITE RECENT TECHNICAL EXPERTS CRITICAL REVIEW OF AIDC ACTIVITIES. GROUP WILL ALSO INSIST ON PERM REPS BEING INVOLVED IN MEETINGS BETWEEN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND OTHER UN BODIES.

5. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE - INFORMAL GROUP HAS EXPANDED ON ORIGINAL DUTCH DRAFT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PERM REPS STANDING COMMITTEE AND CHANGES SUGGESTED IN GREENE'S OCT. 15 LETTER HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED. DRAFT WILL BE FLOATED AT PERM REPS MEETING AT PROPITIOUS MOMENT.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTION - IF PERM REPS APPEAR OPEN TO THE IDEA OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION IN MARCH, THE NETHERLANDS DRAFT MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR STUDY AS AN INDONESIAN ONE. IT ALL DEPENDS UPON THE REACTIONS OF INDONESIA'S ASEAN COLLEAGUES WHICH ARE STILL UNKNOWN.

7. DIFFICULTIES FORESEEN- SOVIETS, AS A NON-REGIONAL MEMBER, ARE

EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT ANY CHANGES IN THE STATUS QUO FOR FEAR OF GIVING AWAY ADVANTAGES TO PRC WHEN IT BECOMES ACTIVE REGIONAL MEMBER. SOVIET PERM REP KHRUSTOLEV IS HELD ON A SHORT REIN: ALL CHANGES MUST BE APPROVED BY NESTERENKO IN MOSCOW. SRI LANKA REP, WHO ALWAYS CLAIMS TO BE UNINSTRUCTED, CONTINUES TO DEMAND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INVISIBLES COMMITTEE AS A LEGISLATIVE BODY DESPITE LACK OF SUPPORT OF THEIR MEMBERS. PAKISTAN'S POSITION IS SLOWLY CHANGING AS IT NOTES PAKISTANI IN SECRETARIAT ARE BEGINNING TO SUPPORT NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS. INDIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION STILL AMBIVALENT; IT RECOGNIZES NEED FOR ECAGE CHANGE BUT WANTS TO GO SLOWLY. BANGLADESH BLINDLY WANTS PRIORITY GIVEN TO ANY PROJECT WHICH WILL DIRECTLY ASSIST IT.

8. CONCLUSION - IT'S LIKE PUSHING MOLASSES UP HILL, BUT SOME BENEFITS ARE EXPECTED FROM THIS EXERCISE. WE ALREADY ARE SEEING SHORTER AND MORE BUSINESS-LIKE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS; UNFORTUNATELY THE DELEGATES RARELY WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SHORTER

MEETINGS - THEY WANT TO STAY ON FOR THE TOURS AND PER DIEM.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 30, 1973.

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